

SN. 10/643,013

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. TOMK:009A

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for applying information to a medical slide or histology cassette, ~~wherein a printing medium is applied~~ comprising:

transporting a slide or histology cassette onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station;

printing directly onto a surface portion of a said slide or histology cassette to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, the printing medium being sealable wherein the printed data is sealed onto said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette so that said organised array of printed data is proof against removal or damage during subsequent handling or treatment of the slide or histology cassette; and

transporting the slide or histology cassette onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a separate discharge location.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing medium comprises at least a solvent and a vinyl resin.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing medium is directly ~~sealable~~ sealed to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the printing medium comprises at least a solvent and a vinyl resin.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printing medium is ~~sealable~~ sealed to said surface portion of the slide or cassette by ~~application of~~ applying a coating agent ~~or medium~~ to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette so as to cover said organised array of printed data.

6-20. Canceled.

SN. 10/643,013

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. TOMK:009A

21. (Newly added) A method according to claim 1, wherein the printing medium is an aqueous-based ink which is then coated with an immiscible coating agent.

22. (Newly added) A method according to claim 1, wherein the printing medium comprises a solvent.

23. (Newly added) A method for applying information to both medical slides and histology cassettes, comprising:

transporting a slide onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station;

printing directly onto a surface portion of said slide to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, wherein the printed data is sealed onto said surface portion of the slide so that said organised array of printed data is proof against removal or damage during subsequent handling or treatment of the slide;

transporting the slide onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a discharge location;

transporting a histology cassette onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station;

printing directly onto a surface portion of said cassette to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, wherein the printed data is sealed onto said surface portion of the cassette so that said organised array of printed data is proof against removal or damage during subsequent handling or treatment of the cassette;

transporting the histology cassette onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a discharge location.

24. (Newly added) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the printing medium is directly sealed to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette.

25. (Newly added) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the printing medium is sealed to said surface portion of the slide or cassette by applying a coating agent to said

SN. 10/643,013

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. TOMK:009A

surface portion of the slide or histology cassette so as to cover said organised array of printed data.

26. (Newly added) A method according to claim 23, wherein the printing medium is an aqueous-based ink which is then coated with an immiscible coating agent.

27. (Newly added) A method for applying information to a medical slide or histology cassette according to claim 1, wherein said information is applied prior to use, comprising:

transporting a slide or histology cassette onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station, wherein said slide or histology cassette does not contain a specimen;

printing directly onto a surface portion of said slide or histology cassette to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, wherein the printed data is sealed onto said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette so that said organised array of printed data is proof against removal or damage during subsequent handling or treatment of the slide; and

transporting the slide or histology cassette onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a discharge location.

28. (Newly added) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the printing medium is directly sealed to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette.

29. (Newly added) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the printing medium is sealed to said surface portion of the slide or cassette by applying a coating agent to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette so as to cover said organised array of printed data.

30. (Newly added) A method according to claim 27, wherein the printing medium is an aqueous-based ink which is then coated with an immiscible coating agent.

31. (Newly added) A method for applying information to both medical slides and histology cassettes prior to use, comprising:

transporting a slide onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station, wherein said slide does not contain a specimen;

SN. 10/643,013

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. TOMK:009A

printing directly onto a surface portion of said slide to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, wherein the printed data is sealed onto said surface portion of the slide so that said organised array of printed data is proof against removal or damage during subsequent handling or treatment of the slide;

transporting the slide onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a discharge location;

transporting a histology cassette onto which data is to be printed from a storage means to a printing station, wherein said histology cassette does not contain a specimen;

printing directly onto a surface portion of said cassette to define an organised array of printed data using a printing medium, wherein the printed data is sealed onto said surface portion of the cassette so that said organised array of printed data is proof against removal or damage during subsequent handling or treatment of the cassette;

transporting the histology cassette onto which data has been printed from the printing station to a discharge location.

32. (Newly added) A method according to claim 31, wherein the printing medium is directly sealed to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette.

33. (Newly added) A method according to claim 31, wherein the printing medium is sealed to said surface portion of the slide or cassette by applying a coating agent to said surface portion of the slide or histology cassette so as to cover said organised array of printed data.

34. (Newly added) A method according to claim 31, wherein the printing medium is an aqueous-based ink which is then coated with an immiscible coating agent.